



President
Paul Fazzino
 Essex Fire Engine Co. No. 1

Vice President
Mike Jenkins
 Westbrook Fire Dept.

Secretary - Treasurer
Steve Biasi
 North Madison Vol. Fire Co.

Minutes of the June 27, 2015 VSMAI meeting in Killingworth, CT.

President Paul Fazzino called the meeting to order at 19:40 hrs. with a salute to the flag.

Attendees – July 27, 2015

Dick Bauer – Killingworth	Doug Harreys – Essex
Chris Going – Essex	Paul Fazzino, Jr. – Essex
Tim Lee – Deep River	Jim Budney – Deep River
Charlie Herrschaft – Guilford	Chris Yenco – Madison
Gregg Prevost – Westbrook	John Brainard – Chester
Jim Schaefer – Chester	Ray DesJardin, Jr. – Killingworth
Rick Swan – County Coordinator	Jeremy Adametz – Killingworth
Sam Baber – Haddam	Robert Chadd – Durham
Terrance Wall – Durham	Joe Johnson – Old Saybrook
Tom Listorti – Old Saybrook	Ben Bagnati – Old Saybrook
Brian Manware – Clinton	Michael Noff – Clinton
Don Venuti – Killingworth	Arnie Moore - Killingworth

Special Presentations:

None

Approval of the previous meeting minutes: Due to the technical issues with the website, during leading up to last month's Valley Shore meeting the May 2015 meeting minutes were not viewable and were not approved. The technical issue was resolved and the minutes were also emailed to everyone on the Valley Shore distribution email list. Therefore, a MMS (Baber/Johnson) to accept the May 18, 2015 minutes was made. Motion passed unanimously.

A second MMS (Baber/Johnson) to accept the June 22, 2015 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reading of communications:

None

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$5,190.11, with \$300.00 of income and \$0.00 bills or payments. The ending balance is

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\$5,490.11. MMS to accept the Treasurer's report as presented (Baber/Bauer).
Motion passed unanimously.

Dues payments was received from the following departments:

1. Durham (2014)
2. Madison
3. Westbrook
4. Haddam
5. Deep River
6. Chester
7. Killingworth
8. North Madison
9. Guilford
10. Old Saybrook
11. Durham (2015)
12. Old Lyme
13. Essex

Bills to be paid:

None

Committee report(s):

State Fire Coordinator's Report:

No Report

Regional Preparation/Pre-Planning:

- Gregg Prevost reported there have been task force activations in Hartford County but there has not been a State meeting in approximately three (3) months.



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Radio Frequency/Communications Committee

- President Fazzino announced any departments having changes to their radio frequencies should forward those changes to Chief Brian Manaware of Clinton.
- An inquiry was made as to whether the radio frequencies were posted on the website. At this time the radio frequencies are not posted to the website.
- Chief Manware of Clinton will send out the current list to the chiefs and if there are any changes to please make the corrections and return the corrected version back to Chief Manware.
- President Fazzino stated once all the changes and corrections are made the Secretary will post the list on the website.

Website:

- The website was having some technical issues but the problems have been corrected and the website is up and running.

Tanker Strike Team SOP:

No Report

Tanker Fill Site Setup SOP:

No Report

Accountability SOP

No Report

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RIT/Mayday SOG Review

No Report

Incident Command SOG

- President Fazzino announced Assistant Chief Tim Ballantyne of Deep River started revising the current SOG that had not been update in many years.
- A general discussion was had amongst the attendees as to whether the SOG should be revised using designations 1,2,3 and 4 or use designations A, B, C, and D. The State of Connecticut is currently using A, B, C and D. Chief Tim Lee of Deep River announced the Eastern State Fire School is using A, B, C and D.
- President Fazzino believed it did not make a huge difference between using 1, 2, 3 and 4 as opposed to A, B, C and D. One attendee stated in some locations departments are using 1, 2, 3 and 4 as floor designations and using the numbers for structural side designations may end up creating confusion amongst firefighters. The attendees believed it should be standardized but as with other SOG discussions the attendees believed the Home Rule should still prevail. Deputy Chief Jim Budney stated Assistant Chief Tim Ballantyne of Deep River will revise the SOG and will have it to present at the next Valley Shore meeting. The majority of attendees' felt the sides of the fire structure should be designated as A, B, C and D and the floors are designated with numbers (1, 2, 3, 4 and so on).
- Chief Tim Lee stated he would inform Assistant Chief Ballantyne of the preferences and the Home Rule issue. County Coordinator Rick Swan believed it should be standardized and departments that choose not to use the standardized process could create problems and issues with their own firefighters and mutual aid firefighters especially during structural fires where there can be confusion and lots of radio traffic at times.

Old Business:

- Discussion opened with the attendees about purchasing metal bleachers for the firefighter competition. First Assistant Chief Tom Listorti

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announced a five (5) row, fifteen (15) foot long set of bleachers costs approximately \$1,500.00 with a shipping cost of approximately \$400.00. A local company builds and sells the bleachers.

- Discussion amongst the attendees lead to a motion being made to purchase the bleachers, store the bleachers at Fireman's Field in Old Saybrook and allow/make available the use of the bleachers by any other Valley Shore fire department.
- The motion was made by Chief Dick Bauer of Killingworth with the additional phase "allow/make available the use of the bleacher by any other Valley Shore fire department" made by Deputy Chief Jim Budney of Deep River. Chief Sam Baber of Haddam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- President Fazzino opened discussion concerning emergency responses with many valley shore departments. This discussion started during the May 2015 meeting held in Guilford. The concerns of many fire department officers being the delays in responding to calls, manpower issues and the impact these issues are having. President Fazzino stated based upon just listening to the fire and EMS radio traffic its evident many departments are having these issues. President Fazzino believed the Valley Shore organization always came up with great ideas, resolutions and ways to solve a wide variety of problems.
- Chief Lee of Deep River inquired as to the highlights of the discussion during the May meeting. Chief Lee was unable to attend the May meeting).
- President Fazzino did a summary of the discussion in Guilford with the attendees.
- Chief Manware of Clinton explained an automatic fire alarm call that occurred at a location his department had responded to on previous occasions, however, this automatic alarm call resulted in a room and contests fire with a occupant that had difficulty with mobility. Chief Manware stated the two firefighters on the first engine were dressed with their turn-out gear and were able to go right to work upon arrival and knock the fire down, however, there was some delays with other responding apparatus and equipment along with additional personnel. Chief Manware stated any working fires results in at least three (3) towns being called for mutual aid. Chief Manware explained he has a problem with daytime responses especially with the ambulance. Chief Manware



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stated he heavily relies on Westbrook Ambulance for mutual aid and stated Westbrook Ambulance responds to Clinton numerous times a week.

- Gregg Prevost announced many departments and ambulances are having these problems and he strongly suggested departments establish automatic mutual aid responses especially for daytime calls.
- Chief Bauer of Killingworth also suggested calling for mutual aid departments and ambulances quicker. For example, instead of toning out three or four times with no responses to instead call for mutual aid after the second tone with no response.
- Gregg Prevost of Westbrook announced approximately 50% of the towns have automatic mutual aid assignments and structure fire responses/assignments with RIT teams.
- Deputy Chief Joe Johnson of Old Saybrook announced after four (4) minutes with nobody signing on for a call the call is re-toned and then two (2) minutes after the re-tone if there is no response it automatically goes to mutual aid for dispatching of fire and/or ambulance units.
- Chief Fazzino of Essex inquired about working with Whelen to station a fire engine at their department company and staffing it when there is a call with rotating Whelen personnel.
- President Fazzino stated that idea would have to be worked out with Whelen management officials and added “what’s going to happen when the engine at Whelen responds one day to Deep River, Chester, Clinton, etc.” (using the departments listed as only examples for responding)? Once the company starts losing work production the Whelen management will not be supportive.
- Chief Bauer of Killingworth inquired with Chief Herrschaft of Guilford to provide his experience on these issues since Guilford was in this situation a couple years ago prior to hiring career firefighters.
- Chief Herrschaft of Guilford stated the problem was similar and their problem was the same; lack of responders and delays in emergency personnel responding and arriving at emergency calls. Chief Herrschaft, during that time, also had concerns about legal issues and concerns for delays and minimal responders. Chief Herrschaft also re-evaluated dispatch and re-structured which apparatus responds to different types of calls. Chief Herrschaft also evaluated which calls would require a full response, an officer or just specific apparatus. Chief Herrschaft also stated he attempted to fix the problems and issues with devising crew nights for emergency calls but that also did not resolve the problems and issues.



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- Gregg Prevost stated covering each other's towns would help as well. Mr. Prevost stated he along with other known officers have responded to calls in other towns to assist.
- Chief Manware of Clinton stated the attendees in this room listen to the fire and EMS channels/radios and are active when they hear other departments need assistance.
- President Fazzino added that was good but on the other end of that spectrum the department needing assistance does not need the renegades or the wild responders chasing calls and alarms.
- County Coordinator Rick Swan explained Long Island, NY went through these issues and problems a few years ago and they also re-evaluated their responses. For example, they started only sending officers and limited apparatus to routine calls such as automatic fire alarms and "burnt toast" type alarms especially when the occupants and alarm companies were confirming someone was on site and confirmed it as an accidental alarm trip.
- Gregg Prevost stated Westbrook recently had a recruiting drive in order to get new personnel and it resulted in possibly getting one (1) person.
- Chief Manware of Clinton stated he currently has five (5) individuals in a probationary class and most likely two (2) will work out.
- Chief Bauer of Killingworth made the suggestion that some fire department chiefs may need to approach their Selectmen about the need to hire personnel. Chief Bauer acknowledged this would not be favorable amongst the Selectmen but they problem/issues need to be addressed and brought to their attention especially if something tragic happens. At that time, when a tragedy occurs, without making the Selectmen aware of these problems and issues, the Selectmen will deny knowing of the problems and issues and will look to blame the fire department and/or ambulance.
- President Fazzino inquired with Chief Baber of Haddam about how East Haddam was working out with having two (2) paid employees during the daytime. Chief Baber of Haddam explained the paid employees work separately from the volunteers and currently they have problems with working together but they are in the process of working those problems out. Chief Baber believed some of the problems may be due to the way policies are written.
- Chief Bauer of Killingworth inquired with Terry Wall who works with the Wallingford Fire Department that is a combination department. Mr. Wall stated Wallingford does operate a combination department but in order to



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have it work most successfully there must be Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place and also have officers that enforce them.

Chief Bauer inquired with the attendees at the meeting whether there was any discussion with the Valley Shore Ambulance organization.

- Gregg Prevost of Westbrook acknowledged the ambulance associations and organizations are going through the same problem and are currently discussing the same issue during their regional meetings. This was one of their topics last month during their meeting in Killingworth. Mr. Prevost explained statistics show approximately 30-35% of the EMS calls are legitimate EMS calls for people that are in need of medical assistance, 10-15% of the EMS calls are for calls the police or other emergency services do not want to handle themselves and approximately 40% of the EMS are for people that are manipulating the medical system and in many cases simply prefer to go to the hospital via an ambulance instead of driving themselves or having someone else take them in order to expedite their visit to the hospital or medical facility which most of the time is consumed waiting in the emergency room. Patients being brought in by ambulance get preference and therefore usually do not have to wait for long periods of time in the waiting room. Mr. Prevost also added Hunter's Ambulance has been called for emergency calls but they too are going to lots of calls with limited staffing and manpower and in many cases are not available.
- President Fazzino stated when departments and organizations get younger people to join they get the necessary EMS and fire training and then realize they can make decent money working for a paid service, however, the same older people are doing the majority of the work and over time there are becoming less and less older people. President Fazzino, using Guilford FD as an example, explained with eight (8) career firefighters on shift how much can you really accomplish with even eight (8) firefighters. President Fazzino continued to explain even with eight (8) firefighter Guilford is using Branford, Madison and North Madison as mutual aid along with the volunteers in Guilford.
- Chief Manware of Clinton stated even with eight (8) firefighters working and ready to go at the station with any working fire they must get their quite fast in order to knock the fire down and make an effective fire attack.
- President Fazzino emphasized the need for RIT crews and strongly advised departments with RIT crews to ensure those crews have RIT qualified firefighters responding.



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864 Opening Hill Road
Madison, CT 06443-8202
203-245-2772

OLD LYME FIRE DEPT.
69 Lyme Street
PO Box 102
Old Lyme, CT 06371-0102
860-434-2424

OLD SAYBROOK FIRE DEPT.
310 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475-2372
860-395-3149

WESTBROOK FIRE DEPT.
PO Box 691
South Main Street
Westbrook, CT 06498-0691
860-399-9492

- Chief Bauer of Killingworth inquired with the attendees whether the organization should adopt a protocol similar to Old Saybrook's for mutual aid. At this time the attendees agreed the organization did not have a standard protocol for mutual aid one a department is toned out two (2) or three (3) times without a response.
- Chief Lee of Deep River inquired whether Old Saybrook or any other department has a sample protocol for mutual aid.
- President Fazzino suggested all the departments should strive to use the same criteria (number of re-tones and time durations without a response) so dispatchers will not confuse different departments.
- Deputy Chief Johnson of Old Saybrook stated he would email Old Saybrook's protocol to the President and the President can then email it out for each department to review and hopefully it can be discussed at the next Valley Shore meeting.

New Business:

- Chief Jim Schaefer of Chester announced on July 1, 2015 Chester Hose Company conducted their elections and the following individuals were elected to the following department positions:
 - Chief - Jim Schaefer
 - Deputy Chief - John Brainard
 - Assistant Chief - Allen Alonzo
 - Battalion Chief - Kim Brainard
 - Captain - Sara Blaschik
 - 2nd Lt. - Jacob McNally
- Chief Schaefer of Chester also announced Chester is hosting a Rescue Core Technician course starting in October and there were many openings remaining.
- Chief Brian Manware of Clinton announced that on June 1, 2015 Chief Jeff Hesel took a position with the Town of Clinton's Fire Marshal's Office. According to Chief Manware, as per the Clinton Selectmen and Town Charter, an individual cannot hold the position of Fire Marshal and Fire Chief, therefore, Chief Hesel resigned from his position as Fire Chief and at that time Deputy Chief Brian Manware became the new Chief.



President
Paul Fazzino
Essex Fire Engine Co. No. 1

Vice President
Mike Jenkins
Westbrook Fire Dept.

Secretary - Treasurer
Steve Biasi
North Madison Vol. Fire Co.

CHESTER HOSE CO., INC.
PO Box 214
Chester, CT 06412-0214
860-526-0019

CLINTON VOL. FIRE DEPT.
35 East Main Street
Clinton, CT 06413-2049
860-669-8131

DEEP RIVER FIRE DEPT.
57 Union Street
Deep River, CT 06417-2011
860-526-6042

DURHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE CO., INC.
PO Box 154
Durham, CT 06422-0154
860-349-9112

ESSEX FIRE ENGINE CO. NO. 1
11 Saybrook Road
Essex, CT 06426-1402
860-767-1258

GUILFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT
390 Church Street
Guilford, CT 06437-2004
203-453-8000

HADDAM VOL. FIRE DEPARTMENT
439 Saybrook Road
Higganum, CT 06441-4110
860-345-4945

KILLINGWORTH VOL. FIRE CO., INC.
333 Route 81
Killingworth, CT 06419-1218
860-663-1785

MADISON HOSE CO. NO. 1
PO Box 573
Madison, CT 06443-0573
203-245-2772

NO. MADISON VOL. FIRE CO.
864 Opening Hill Road
Madison, CT 06443-8202
203-245-2772

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Interest to the Organization:

- Gregg Prevost of Westbrook announced the Westbrook Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance voted to sell the fire department's old aerial truck. The minimum bid for the truck is \$25,000.00.

MMS to at hours 20:45 hours (Bauer/Chadd).

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Biasi

Steve Biasi
Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, August 24, 2015 in Madison at 7:30pm.